

## PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing power consumption of a decoder in a communication system, comprising:
  - estimating a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal;
  - determining a quality metric threshold;
  - ~~delimiting an interval based in part on the quality metric threshold;~~
  - determining a real-valued parameter  $\Delta_0$ ;
  - defining an interval in accordance with a formula  $(-\infty, TS + \Delta_0)$ , where  $TS$  is the quality metric threshold; and
  - decoding the segment when the estimated quality metric is outside of the interval.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the estimating a quality metric comprises estimating a signal-to-noise ratio.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the estimating a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal comprises estimating a quality metric of a channel associated with a slot of a received signal.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining a quality metric threshold comprises:
  - determining a data rate of the segment;
  - determining a number of segments received; and
  - determining a quality metric threshold in accordance with the data rate and the number of segments.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 ~~wherein the determining a real-valued parameter  $\Delta_0$  comprises further comprising~~ determining the parameter  $\Delta_0$  in accordance with a demodulator performance.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein the parameter  $\Delta_0$  is less than or equal to zero.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for reducing power consumption of a decoder in a communication system, comprising The method of claim 1 wherein the decoding the segment comprises:~~

estimating a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal;  
determining a quality metric threshold;  
delimiting a plurality of intervals in accordance with the quality metric threshold;  
associating each of the plurality of intervals with one of a plurality of parameters;  
determining an interval from the plurality of intervals into which the estimated quality metric belongs; and  
decoding the received signal for a number of iterations equal to the one of a plurality of parameters associated with the determined interval.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the delimiting a plurality of intervals comprises:

determining a plurality of real-valued parameters  
 $\Delta_0 \leq \Delta_1 \leq \dots \leq \Delta_m \leq 0 < \Delta_{m+1} \leq \Delta_{m+2} \leq \dots \Delta_{m+n}$ ; and  
defining the plurality of intervals in accordance with the formulas:  
[ $TS + \Delta_{k-1}, TS + \Delta_k$ ], for all  $k \in (1, n+m)$ ; and  
[ $TS + \Delta_{n+m}, \infty$ ],  
where  $n, m$  are non-negative, integer-valued parameters, and  $TS$  is the quality metric threshold.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the parameters  $\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_m, \Delta_{m+1}, \Delta_{m+2}, \dots, \Delta_{m+n}$  are determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein [[a]] the plurality of parameters comprise non-negative, integer-valued parameters  $N_1 \leq \dots \leq N_m \geq N_{m+1} \geq N_{m+2} \geq \dots \geq N_{n+m+1}$ .
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the parameters  $N_1, \dots, N_m, N_{m+1}, N_{m+2}, \dots, N_{n+m+1}$  are determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing power consumption of a decoder in a communication system, comprising:
  - a processor; and
  - a processor-readable storage medium accessible by the processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to:
    - estimate a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal;
    - determine a quality metric threshold;
    - ~~delimit an interval based in part on the quality metric threshold;~~
    - determine a real-valued parameter  $\Delta_0$ ;
    - define an interval in accordance with a formula  $(-\infty, TS + \Delta_0)$ , where  $TS$  is the quality metric threshold; and
    - decode the segment when the estimated quality metric is outside of the interval.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the quality metric is a signal-to-noise ratio.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the segment of a received signal is a slot.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the quality metric threshold is determined in accordance with a data rate of the segment and a number of segments received.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[18]] 14 wherein the parameter  $\Delta_0$  is determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[18]] 14 wherein the parameter  $\Delta_0$  is less than or equal to zero.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing power consumption of a decoder in a communication system, comprising The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the set of instructions is further executable by the processor to decode the segment by:

a processor; and

a processor-readable storage medium accessible by the processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to:

estimate a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal;

determine a quality metric threshold;

delimiting delimit a plurality of intervals in accordance with the quality metric threshold; associating associate each of the plurality of intervals with one of a plurality of parameters;

determining determine an interval from the plurality of intervals into which the estimated quality metric belongs; and

decoding decode the received signal for a number of iterations equal to the one of a plurality of parameters associated with the determined interval.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the set of instructions is further executable by the processor to delimit a plurality of intervals by:

determining a plurality of real-valued parameters

$\Delta_0 \leq \Delta_1 \leq \dots \leq \Delta_m \leq 0 < \Delta_{m+1} \leq \Delta_{m+2} \leq \dots \Delta_{m+n}$ ; and

defining the plurality of intervals in accordance with the formulas:

$[TS + \Delta_{k-1}, TS + \Delta_k]$ , for all  $k \in (1, n+m)$ ; and

$[TS + \Delta_{n+m}, \infty]$ ,

where  $n, m$  are non-negative, integer-valued parameters, and  $TS$  is the quality metric threshold.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the parameters

$\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_m, \Delta_{m+1}, \Delta_{m+2}, \dots \Delta_{m+n}$  are determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein a plurality of parameters comprise non negative, integer-valued parameters  $N_1 \leq \dots \leq N_m \geq N_{m+1} \geq N_{m+2} \geq \dots \geq N_{n+m+1}$ .

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the parameters  $N_1, \dots, N_m, N_{m+1}, N_{m+2}, \dots, N_{n+m+1}$  are determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium for reducing power consumption of a decoder in a communication system, comprising instructions executable by a processor to:

estimate a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal;

determine a quality metric threshold;

~~delimit an interval based in part on the quality metric threshold;~~

determine a real-valued parameter  $\Delta_0$ ;

define an interval in accordance with a formula  $(-\infty, TS + \Delta_0)$ , where  $TS$  is the quality metric threshold; and

decode the segment when the estimated quality metric is outside of the interval.

28. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the quality metric is a signal-to-noise ratio.

29. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the segment of a received signal is a slot.

30. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the quality metric threshold is determined in accordance with a data rate of the segment and a number of segments received.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim [[31]] 27 wherein the parameter  $\Delta_0$  is determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.

33. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim [[31]] 27 wherein the parameter  $\Delta_0$  is less than or equal to zero.

34. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium for reducing power consumption of a decoder in a communication system, comprising instructions executable by a processor to ~~The processor readable medium of claim 27 wherein the set of instructions is further executable by the processor to decode the segment by:~~

~~estimate a quality metric of a channel associated with a segment of a received signal;~~

~~determine a quality metric threshold;~~

~~delimiting~~ delimit a plurality of intervals in accordance with the quality metric threshold;

~~associating~~ associate each of the plurality of intervals with one of a plurality of parameters;

~~determining~~ determine an interval from the plurality of intervals into which the estimated quality metric belongs; and

~~decoding~~ decode the received signal for a number of iterations equal to the one of a plurality of parameters associated with the determined interval.

35. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim [[27]] 34 wherein the set of instructions is further executable by the processor to delimit a plurality of intervals by:

determining a plurality of real-valued parameters

$\Delta_0 \leq \Delta_1 \leq \dots \leq \Delta_m \leq 0 < \Delta_{m+1} \leq \Delta_{m+2} \leq \dots \Delta_{m+n}$ ; and

defining the plurality of intervals in accordance with the formulas:

$[TS + \Delta_{k-1}, TS + \Delta_k]$ , for all  $k \in (1, n+m)$ ; and

$[TS + \Delta_{n+m}, \infty]$ ,

where  $n, m$  are non-negative, integer-valued parameters, and  $TS$  is the quality metric threshold.

36. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 35 wherein the parameters  $\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_m, \Delta_{m+1}, \Delta_{m+2}, \dots, \Delta_{m+n}$  are determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.

37. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim [[27]] 34 wherein a plurality of parameters comprise non-negative, integer-valued parameters

$$N_1 \leq \dots \leq N_m \geq N_{m+1} \geq N_{m+2} \geq \dots \geq N_{n+m+1}.$$

38. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the parameters  $N_1, \dots, N_m, N_{m+1}, N_{m+2}, \dots, N_{n+m+1}$  are determined in accordance with a demodulator performance.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the quality metric is slot based.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the quality metric is slot based.

42. (Previously Presented) The processor-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the quality metric is slot based.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the quality metric comprises a signal-to-noise ratio.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the quality metric threshold is determined in accordance with a data rate of the segment and a number of segments received.

45. (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 34 wherein the quality metric comprises a signal-to-noise ratio.

46. (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 34 wherein the quality metric threshold is determined in accordance with a data rate of the segment and a number of segments received.